

PLEASE DO NOT
ENTER! - JJS

Application Serial No. 10/664,126
Attorney Docket No. 2003-IP-010228U1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1.- 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of drilling an open hole in a subterranean formation, comprising the steps of:

circulating through the drill pipe and drill bit a well drill-in and servicing fluid comprising a viscosified fluid, a fluid loss control additive, and a degradable material bridging agent ~~comprising a degradable material~~;

forming a self-degrading filter cake comprising the degradable material bridging agent within the formation; and

permitting the filter cake to self-degrade.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of forming a self-degrading filter cake comprises forming the filter cake upon the face of the formation itself, upon a sand screen, or upon a gravel pack.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of permitting the filter cake to self-degrade comprises contacting the filter cake with a degrading agent for a period of time such that the degradable material bridging agent is dissolved thereby.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the well drill-in and servicing fluid comprises the degrading agent.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the degradable material bridging agent comprises the degrading agent.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the degrading agent comprises water.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the degradable material bridging agent comprises a degradable polymer or a dehydrated compound.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the degradable polymer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, chitins, chitosans, proteins, orthoesters, aliphatic polyesters, poly(glycolides), poly(lactides), poly(ϵ -caprolactones), poly(hydroxybutyrate), polyanhydrides, aliphatic polycarbonates, poly(orthoesters), poly(amino acids), poly(ethylene oxides), ~~or~~ and polyphosphazenes.